

Lesson 39

Words To Learn This Week

unearth
depart
coincide
cancel
debtor
legible
placard
contagious
clergy
customary
transparent
scald

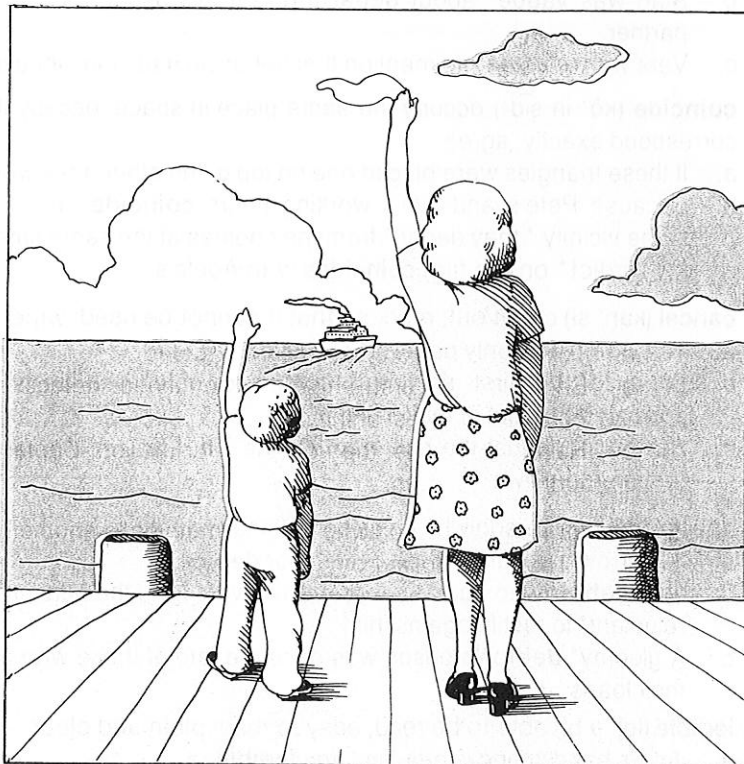
"Ah, kill me with thy weapon, not with words!"

—Shakespeare, *III Henry VI*

1. **unearth** (un érth') dig up; discover; find out
 - a. The digging of the scientists **unearthed** a buried city.
 - b. A plot to defraud* the investors was **unearthed** by the F.B.I.
 - c. The museum exhibited* the vase that had been **unearthed** in Greece.
2. **depart** (di pärt') go away; leave; turn away (from); change; die
 - a. We arrived in the village in the morning and **departed** that night.
 - b. Stan was vague* about **departing** from his usual manner of choosing a partner.
 - c. Vera was reluctant* to mention that her uncle had long since **departed**.
3. **coincide** (kō' in sīd') occupy the same place in space; occupy the same time; correspond exactly; agree
 - a. If these triangles were placed one on top of the other, they would **coincide**.
 - b. Because Pete's and Jim's working hours **coincide**, and they live in the same vicinity,* they depart* from their homes at the same time.
 - c. My verdict* on the film **coincides** with Adele's.
4. **cancel** (kan' sl) cross out; mark so that it cannot be used; wipe out; call off
 - a. The stamp was only partially* **canceled**.
 - b. Because the first shipment contained defective* parts, Mr. Zweben **canceled** the rest of the order.
 - c. Having found just the right man for the job, Captain Mellides **canceled** all further interviews.
5. **debtor** (det' ər) person who owes something to another
 - a. If I borrow a dollar from you, I am your **debtor**.
 - b. As a **debtor** who had received many favors from the banker, Mr. Mertz was reluctant* to testify against him.
 - c. A gloomy* **debtor's** prison was once the fate of those who could not repay their loans.
6. **legible** (lej' ə bl) able to be read; easy to read; plain and clear
 - a. Julia's handwriting is beautiful and **legible**.
 - b. Nancy hesitated* in her reading because the words were scarcely* **legible**.
 - c. Our teacher penalizes* us for compositions that are not **legible**.
7. **placard** (plak' ärd) a notice to be posted in a public place; poster
 - a. Colorful **placards** announced an urgent* meeting.
 - b. **Placards** were placed throughout the neighborhood by rival* groups.
 - c. Numerous* **placards** appeared around the city calling for volunteers.*
8. **contagious** (kan tāj' əs) spreading by contact, easily spreading from one to another
 - a. Scarlet fever is **contagious**.
 - b. I find that yawning is often **contagious**.
 - c. Interest in the project was **contagious**, and soon all opposition to it collapsed.*
9. **clergy** (kler' jē) persons prepared for religious work; clergymen as a group
 - a. We try never to hinder* the **clergy** as they perform their sacred* tasks.
 - b. Friar Tuck was a member of the **clergy** who loved a jolly* jest.*
 - c. The majority* of the **clergy** felt the new morality* was a menace* to society.
10. **customary** (kus' təm er' ē) usual
 - a. It was **customary** for wealthy Romans to recline* while they were dining.
 - b. The Robin Williams movie received the **customary** rave* reviews from the critics.

- c. The traitor* rejected* the **customary** blindfold for the execution.
11. **transparent** (trans par' ənt) easily seen through; clear
- a. Window glass is **transparent**.
- b. Colonel Thomas is a man of **transparent** honesty and loyalty.*
- c. The homicide* was a **transparent** case of jealousy* that got out of hand.
12. **scald** (skôld) pour boiling liquid over; burn with hot liquid or steam; heat almost to the boiling point
- a. Do not neglect* to **scald** the dishes before drying them.
- b. The **scalding** lava pouring from the mountain placed everyone in peril.*
- c. By being hasty,* Stella **scalded** her hand.

Which of the words studied in this lesson is suggested by the picture?



Read the following passage to see how the new words are used in it.

Roast Beef on Rye

A little digging will **unearth** the roots of our language and habits. For instance, our word "sandwich" is derived from the Earl of Sandwich, who lived in the time of George III. This gentleman would not **depart** from the gambling table for hours on end. If his play happened to **coincide** with dinner, he would **cancel** his regular meal and order a slice of meat to be served to him between two pieces of bread. The biography* of the Earl claims that we are his **debtors** for his discovery of the sandwich. Charles Dickens later used the phrase "sandwich man" to describe someone who walks about with a clearly **legible** message on **placards** hung on his chest and back.

An example of a superstition is the fear of walking under a ladder. This must have been a **contagious** fear for it seems to have started with the ancient belief that

spirits lived in trees or wood. "Knocking on wood" was a way of calling up the friendly spirit to protect one from harm. Today a member of the **clergy** might sneer* at this custom, expecting that by this time such superstitions would have receded* into the past with witches and ghosts.

Another expression, "giving someone the cold shoulder," has been traced to the Middle Ages, when a host would serve his guests a cold shoulder of mutton or beef instead of the **customary** hot food. This was a **transparent** attempt to show the guest he was no longer welcome. The host had thus found a more charitable* yet effective way of expressing his feelings without using a **scalding** remark.